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SECURITY INFORMATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 10 JUL 68

SUBJECT

SED Policy on Political Party Membership  
in DDR

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(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. A large-scale recruitment program for new SED members is presently under way in the Soviet Zone. [REDACTED] the recent examination of the other East Zone [REDACTED]

2. Both the East CDU and the East LDP were required to turn over their membership files to the SED Membership Examination Commission (Überprüfungs Kommission). It was learned from examining these membership files that about 30,000 SED members were at the same time members of either one or the other of these two middle-class parties. About 8,000 of these 30,000 double members had joined the East CDU or LDP either at the wish of the SED leadership or with its knowledge. Other joint members were subjected to long and thorough investigation. A great many persons from this group were instructed to continue their membership in the middle-class parties and to report at regular two-week intervals to SED agencies.

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3. The NDP has about 14,500 members. The NDP membership list is always at the disposal of the SED.

4. The SED prefers to obtain new members primarily in that population group which until now has remained aloof from all political participation. In choosing new SED candidates, the FDGB and Society for German-Soviet Friendship membership lists are being especially exploited.

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5. The SED Membership Examination Commission, with H [REDACTED] chairman, consists of two members of the Ministry of Interior [REDACTED] official from the Ministry of State Security. Participation of the State Security Service in the selection of these persons is expected to facilitate continuous control of the new candidates. Except where the new recruits are drawn from special categories such as activists, national prize winners, teachers of merit, master farmers, and the like, the novitiates will be placed in a position of pupil and teacher, so far as their relationship to the older members is concerned.

6. The East CDU and LDP are also to undertake new membership recruitment.

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The Commission has already given these parties a list of persons whom they are required to purge. The State Security Service has also called for an accounting of the reasons that several thousand persons have renounced their membership in these parties during the last year. In many individual cases, the State Security Service has demanded precise facts.

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